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✓ THE SLUMS  
OF  
NEW YORK

BY

HENRY MILCHSTEIN



STAGED AND EFFECTS BY

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## CHARACTERS

Max Simone:

A rich youth visiting Chinatown

Marlow Simone:

His sister.

Jack:

Marlow's sweetheart.

Tom Dixon:

A Policeman.

Jim White:

Owner of resort.

Kid:

An underworld character.

Sarah:

His wife.

Howard:

An underworld character.

Margarete:

His wife.

Hetty:

An underworld character, supposed sweet heart of Max Simone.

Hoo - Sing:

A Chinaman - waiter.

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Scene takes place in Jim Whites Cafe in Chinatown at 10 P. M. Hotel is located on the left, occupying  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the stage, and to the right a street is shown leading to entrance of hotel. Scene decorated to fit purpose.

When curtain rises, Jim White is behind the bar washing glasses. Kid, Jack and Margaret are playing cards at a table placed at the extreme left of the hotel, while, Hoo-Sing is adjusting the remaining tables in the room.

Tom Dixon is walking up and down the street.

Enter Dixon. (walks to the bar.) (unnoticed.)

Dixon:

Hello Jim.

Jim: (taking the policeman's hand.)

Why! how do you do.

Dixon:

Say, Jim, I wish to inform you, that my people have been on the lookout, and this time they are in earnest. In the last few days many crimes were committed and the captain is under the impression

that the murderers and gangsters, who participated in these crimes come in to your place. Police are due here this evening or tomorrow night; so I advise you to close at once.

Jim:

All night, Tom, thanks for the tip.

Dixon: (walks to the door, and meets Sarah and Hetty at the entrance.)

Say girls, you'd better keep off the corner to-night.

Sarah:

Why?

Hetty:

Oh Tom, we aren't doing anything.

Dixon:

Well, if you don't care to take my hint, do as you please. (Exit Dixon.)

(While this is going on at the entrance, Hoo-Sing is in the meantime serving the people at the table with drinks.)

(Enter Sarah and Hetty. They seat themselves at an opposite table. (Hoo-Sing approaches them.)

Hoo-Sing:

Vat doo you vishy?

Hetty:

What have you got?

Hoo-Sing (Placing the bill of fare on the table, sings out.)

Chop-Suey

Fried eggs in gold-dust

Chicken flonsey  
Yokoman  
Cockee-Tail  
All kinds finey-riney drinks.  
Demeetassee.

Sarah: (to Hoo - Sing)

Well give us two beers.

Hoo - Sing:

Two beers bosey.

Margarete: (orders loudly)

Three cock-tails.

(After saying this, she looks to the rear,  
where Hetty and Sarah are seated.)

Margarete: (Speaking to both of them.)

Isn't Marlow here yet?

Sarah:

I guess she's got a sucker on for to - night.

(Kid jumps to his feet, with the cards in his  
hand.)

Kid:

What then like you?

Jack: (Rises and interrupts Kid.)

Sit down and keep cool, I've got a full house.

(In the meantime. — Hoo-Sing serves Sarah  
and Hetty with the said order.) (The game con-  
tinues.) (Hoo-Sing serves the remaining three  
drinks to the game table.) (Hoo-Sing then collects  
the emptied glasses of Sarah and Hetty.)

Enter Dixon.

Kid: (throws up his cards and rises to his feet.)

What the!! — hello Tom.

Tom Dixon:

How do. (walks to bar.) (converses quietly with Jim.)

Kid: (walks over to Sarah and Hetty and seats himself at their table.) (Jack and Margarete look on.) (Hoo-Sing collects glasses from game table.) (Kid speaking to Sarah.)

Did you make anything?

Sarah:

Yes, Kid. (taking a few dollar bills from her stocking, gives them to him.)

Kid:

Is that all? (banging his hand on the table.)  
(The policeman looks 'round.) (Sarah buries her head in her arms.)

Hetty:

Don't cry Sarah, you weren't made to cry.  
(At this stage Tom Dixon leaves and walks up and down the street.) (Hoo-Sing is now cleaning the game table.) (Kid, pitying Sarah, walks 'round the table, picks her head up and kisses her.) (Jim is reading a news-paper.) (Hoo-Sing, seeing them kiss, laughs out loud.)

Hoo - Sing:

Hey, bosey look!  
(Jim looks up.) (Kid now walks out of the room.) (Hetty stares madly after him.)

Jack: (who has been silent all this time.)

Isn't Marlow here yet?

Sarah:

No Jack.

(Hoo - Sing now seats himself at the third table, which is placed in the rear of the room.

Jack: (rises from his chair, taking his hat.)

Well, I guess I'll go and see if I can find her.

(As soon as Jack leaves the table, Marlow enters.) (Magarete at this moment rises and seats herself at the opposite table, where Hetty and Sarah are seated.)

Hoo - Sing:

Hee she is.

(Sarah springs from her chair and meets Marlow.) Jack looks on.)

Sarah:

Where have you been all this time?

Marlow: (Sadly answers.)

Sarah, don't ask me.

Jack: (Walks over and grasps Marlow by the arm, saying.)

Don't ask me?

(Sarah in the meantime seats herself with Hetty and Margarete.)

Marlow:

Oh! Jack.

(Hoo - Sing comes forward.)

Jack:

Well, I'll ask you; where were you all this time?

(Marlow lowers her head at this moment.)

Jack:

Have you got anything?

(Marlow is still silent.) (Jack grows mad and

lifts his hand to strike her.) (Hetty, Sarah and Magarete rise to their feet and with Marlow together cry.)

The Four :

Jack !

(Hoo - Sing runs to the door and shouts.)

Hoo - Sing :

Police ! Police !

Dixon has just left the street and does not appear.)

(at the second cry of Police, Marlow falls to Jacks feet.)

Marlow :

My darling Jack, I can't work anymore, I am sick.

Jack :

Sick? why you're as strong as when you first started.

(In the meantime Jim runs to the door and pulls Hoo-Sing inside and sruts the door after him). (The Policeman at this stage comes running down the street, bewildered, peeps through the key-hole of the door, and slowly walks away again). (All seat themselves and Jack helps Marlow to her feet). (Kid comes running in, and showing Jack a roll of bills calls him to the game - table).

Kid :

Come Jack let's have a game.

Jack :

Game? — how can I play with you when my lazy piece of humanity, failed to bring me money.

(In the meantime Marlow goes to the bar and orders a whiskey.) (The rest talk quietly.)

Kid:

Say, Jack, have a heart, forgive her this time, I forgave mine just before. Remember Jack, that they love us, and for this reason alone, we ought to be contented with what ever they give us.

Jack:

Kid your right, I regret what I did, you know she's a darling girl, and every time I hurt her my heart aches. Oh, Kid I am tired of this life.

(Marlow is in the mean time drinking and talking to Jim at the bar). (Kid goes over to Hoo-Sing who is seated on the floor next to the bar, kicks him and walks back to the game table).

(Sarah seats herself next to Kid). (Hoo-Sing cries out loud:

Aye Aye Jim. (He murmurs Chinese to himself.)

Jim:

What has happened now?

(In the meantime Jack goes to the bar and orders a beer). (Jim serves him and Marlow begins to converse with Jack.) (Hoo-Sing is rubbing his foot.) (At this interval Max Simone enters and seats himself at the rear table.) Hoo-Sing jumps to his feet and runs limpingly across the room to Max).

Hoo - Sing:

Vot is gentlaman?

**Max Simone:**

Chop Suey.

(Hoo - Sing runs back to the bar, while Kid orders two wines). (The girls order two egg sandwiches). (Hoo Sing and Jim are busy attending the orders).

**Hetty:** (Speaks to Kid.)

Hey, Kid, I saw your mother last week.

**Kid:**

Oh! did you?

(Hetty nods her head in the affirmative.)

**Kid:**

Did you speak to her?

**Hetty:**

No, but she recognized me.

**Kid:**

Did she look old?

**Hetty:**

Did she, why she resembled a woman of about ninety years.

**Kid:**

Poor mother.

(Hoo - Sing at this stage comes forth with the order on a large tray, during which he sings:—

Oh, me a Chinaman

Me a happy man

Me go a to Japan

And become a married man

Oh, Oh, ..... after the second Oh is said,

Jack intentionally collides with Hoo - Sing, the tray

falls to the floor and Hoo - Sing cries.)

Hoo - Sing:

Bossy look.

(At this stage they all arise to their feet, while Jim comes out from behind the bar, grabs Hoo - Sing by the cue and pulls him on the floor.)

(Hoo-Sing cries for mercy and they all laugh loud.)

Jim: (To chinaman.)

You short - legged rascal, I'll bounce you the next time this happens.

Jack:

Oh, Jim let the poor sucker alone. He just wanted to know whether you would scold him for such an act.

Jim: (To chinaman.)

I'll let you go this time but remember, let it never happen again.

(Hoo - Sing rises to his feet, takes a large basket from Jim and quickly picks the broken glass from the floor, when finished, sweeps the remaining pieces to the bar.)

Hetty: (notices Max, who is seated in the rear of the room.)

Gee! here's my Max (approaches him.)

Kid:

Magarete, won't you dance for us?

Margarete:

Why certainly, anything to entertain you.

Jim: (To all.)

That's what I like to hear.

(To Chinaman) Hey, Sing.

Hoo - Sing:

Aye, aye,

Jim:

Make room.

Hoo - Sing:

Allright bosey, (he makes room.)

(Max and Hetty come to the front and seat themselves at the second table.)

(Magarete dances the pashey dance while they all look on.) (Hoo - Sing sits down on the floor and attempts to look under Magarete's dress everytime she passes him. This goes on for at least five minutes. At the end of the dance, Howard comes running in and seats himself at the rear table. Magarete, seeing him, runs towards him, while Dixon comes running down the street and enters the resort.

(Hoo - Sing is in the meantime imitating Magarete's dance, but as soon as he notices Dixon, he quickly runs around the room and hides himself under the game - table.

Dixon: (To Jim.)

I'm compelled to take some of your customers away as they are wanted at the legal boarding house.

Jim:

Another robbery?

Dixon:

Yes, Jim. You know these fellows are not of the stealing kind. They first hit a fellow with

a black jack on the head, then they rob him. Such an incident occurred just about a few minutes ago, and I was told that the robber, ran into your place.

Jim:

Into my place?

(Howard and Margarete now attempt to run out, when Dixon gets hold of them.

Dixon:

Yes, your the fellow I want. (He places handcuffs on Howard's hands and leads him off stage. Magarete following.) (Hoo - Sing comes out from under the table and walks to the door, looks out and closes it.) (The rest all seat themselves.) (Jack and Kid seat themselves at the first table and play cards, while Sarah, Hetty and Marlow sit at the second table.) (Max at this stage walks to the bar and asks Jim.)

Max:

What's that young lady's name. (Points to Marlow.)

Jim:

Her name is Marlow Simone. She came here three years ago with that fellow Jack. (points to Jack) and have made this their residence ever since. She lives on the third floor and besides she's the best customer that I ever could hope for. Why, she is the liveliest kid in the market to-day.

Kid: (To Jim.)

Two Martineys.

(Jim attends to the orders, and Hoo - Sing serves them.) (To the tune of a funeral march,

Hoo-Sing walks slowly to the table and places the glasses upon it. He runs back to the bar, shouting,

Hoo-Sing:

They didn't blake bosey.

Jim: (shouts.)

Good.

(Hoo-Sing at this stage sits down on the floor near the bar.)

Max: (faintly utters.)

Marlow Simone?

(Marlow rises from her seat and walks to Max.)

Margarete:

Are you talking about me?

Jim: (to Marlow.)

This chap wanted to know your name.

Marlow: (to Max.)

My name! Why haven't you got one already and you want me also?

(Hetty now joins them both at the bar.)

Hetty: (to Marlow.)

He didn't mean to insult you, or to hurt your feelings in anyway.

(Jim walks out.)

Marlow: (to Max.)

Oh! is that all, well I am pleased to meet you.

Jack: (to Hoo-Sing.)

Beer please.

(Hoo - Sing remains on the floor.)

Hoo - Sing: . . . . .

Allright bose.

(Jim comes in again.)

Marlow:

Say, Jim, have you any champaign left?

Jack: (out loud to Jim.)

Is my beer on it's way?

Jim: (to Jack.)

Hasn't that gink served you yet? That Chinaman will drive me to the beach some day.

Jim: (to Marlow.)

I am sorry Marlow, I haven't any left.

Marlow: (to Jim.)

Well I have a little left from yesterday, so I'll make use of it. (She takes a bottle from her bosom and asks Max.)

"Do you want a drink?

(Max remains motionless and doesn't answer.)

Marlow: (to Max.)

No? I'll drink. (she drinks.)

Max Simone:

Don't drink Marlow.

Hetty: (to Marlow.)

You'll get drunk.

Marlow: (laughing out aloud.)

I've got other things to worry about.

(Hoo - Sing, seeing her laugh, laughs also.

Hoo - Sing:

She laughy like a chicky.

(Max draws himself away from Marlow.)

Marlow:

Hey, don't go away from me, do you smell the brandy from my mouth. (taking a cigarette from the bar she says;)

Oh, that could easily be illuminated. Have you a match?

Max Simone:

Yes, I have. (He takes a match from a match box and lighting it, holds it between her and himself.) (Marlow holding the cigarette in her mouth tries to light it, looking into Max's eyes.) (She then lets the cigarette fall from her mouth, shouting;)

Marlow: Brother Max, (falls into his open arms.

(Hoo - Sing walks over to the game table, hits Jack on the back.)

Hoo - Sing:

Sey Jack, look.

(Jack, being disturbed, hits Hoo - Sing's head on the table.) (Hoo - Sing then tells Jim, who makes no attempt to take his part (Marlow now frees herself from Max's caress and says:)

Marlow:

How are the parents?

Max Simone:

Father is dead.

(Marlow lowers her head for a moment and then laughs out loud.)

Marlow :

I should worry.

Hoo - Sing: (laughs.)

Max Simone :

Don't laugh sister, he was our father.

Marlow :

I should feel sorry for that beast, no Max. If he only would have passed away before he had a chance to ruin so many of us, how much better it would have been. If a stranger would have driven me out of his house, because I wouldn't do as he wished me to do, I wouldn't blame him; but when my own father drove me away from a home of happiness just because I wouldn't marry the man he preferred, then he was nothing but a beast. I, who was the bell of society was driven to a life of shame, misery and corruption, to the liveliest kid of the Slums of New York. Didn't he know that this would be the result? Jack's parents became insane because their only child took to this life, and you want me to mourn for him. (She laughs out hysterically) (Hoo - Sing interrupts, and says:

Hoo - Sing :

How nice.

(Marlow continues with speech.)

Marlow :

But Max, how is mother?

Max Simone :

Dead.

Marlow :

Dead?

(She now turns to Sarah)

Marlow:

Do you remember your mother?

Sarah:

Yes Marlow.

Marlow: (sighing)

If we only listened to our mothers not one of us would be here now. Do you realize what a mother is girls? She is the only one who would share her last cent with you, and if she is unable to do this, she will pray for you till the very end. If you are sick she'll always sit near you, no matter how contagious the disease may be. That's a mother, and when you feel that your left without her you first begin to realize how valuable a treasure she was to you. Did she mention my name?

Max Simone:

Yes, her last utterings were, Max, bring Marlow home again; so that I may press her to my heart before I pass away. But alas, her hopes were blasted by cruel death.

Marlow:

Why are you here?

Max Simone:

I come here with the purpose of taking Hetty from Chinatown, so that we may marry and lead a respectable life.

Marlow:

Do you think that you'd be able to accomplish that feat?

Hetty: (To Marlow)

Yes Marlow, he will. I love your brother. Oh, how relieved my mind is. Max, I promise to be your true wife. Of course I wasted some of my good years, and now that you came to take me away from this life, which is a disgrace to humanity I am sure that I'll derive all the good that God gave man and woman to be happy for.

Hoo - Sing :

She goee back to China.

Marlow :

And I?

Max Simone :

You'll also come with me.

Hetty :

How happy we all will be.

(Max takes Marlow by the arm and they seat themselves at the second table, where Sarah is now seated, while Hetty seats herself at the game table, next to Kid and watches the game.)

Max Simone :

Sister, I am now rich. Come out into the world again, and if by chance you have the good fortune to marry a man who'd provide a good home for you, then I am sure that the blots that thus far stained your name will be wiped off; and the sun will shine brightly upon you, just as it shines upon this earth when it rises on the horizon on early morn!

(While this speech is going on, the lights slowly diminish and when speech is fully concluded, darkness reigns. A small curtain rises in the back, snow-

ing a mother, father and their child in a happy mood.)

Max: (To Marlow.)

Have I convinced you, is your mind concentrated on what I said? Now is the time, choose between life and death.

(During this speech, the lights are gradually growing brighter and when speech is concluded the back curtain falls and the stage is fully illuminated.)

Kid: (to Hetty.)

Are you going to leave us?

(Hetty not answering leaves her seat.) (Marlow, taking Max's hand says.)

Yes brother, I'll go.

(Hetty has now reached the second table.) (Jack now throws up his cards and rises to his feet.) (Dixon is now walking up and down the street talking to Howard and Margarete who are dressed differently than before.) (Max takes Marlow and Hetty by the arm and starts for the door.) (Jack excitedly draws a gun from his pocket and says.)

Jack: (to Marlow.)

Are you going to leave me now?

Hetty: (to Jack.)

Why, do you mind?

Hoo-Sing: (to Jack.)

She goee back to myee contree.

Jack: (to Marlow.)

Well, your not going out of here, alive. I beat many a fellow who tried to take you from me.

and he isn't going to take you either.

(Max, Hetty and Marlow advance to the door, when Jack suddenly shoots at Marlow, saying.)

Jack:            ,

Take that.

(Marlow falls to the floor.) (Hoo-Sing runs to the door, crying.)

Police, Police!

(Dixon and the rest, come running down the street.) (Dixon entering, gets hold of Jack who is still holding the gun in his hand, dazed.) (Everybody on the stage close up around Marlow.) (Hoo-Sing runs to the bar, gets a bottle and running to where Marlow lies says:)

Marlow, here is some Champaign. Hey Dixon, she sleeps. She wantee Cockee tails.

(Jim pulls Hoo-Sing away.) (Dixon is in the meantime handcuffing Jack.) (Max now kneels beside his sister and feels her pulse.)

Jack:            ,

She's dead all right. I took good aim when I pulled that trigger.

(Dixon now leads Jack to the street, Margaret, Hetty, Sarah and Kid following.) (Jack looks back to the room, saying:)

I am sorry Marlow.

(Dixon, grasping him firmly by the arm says:)

That's the end of all underworld abituays.

Curtain falls.

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